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PENTAGON CONCERNED ABOUT INFO ON ITS WEB SITES

STReport International Magazine
Featured Weekly
"Accurate UP-TO-THE-MINUTE News, Reviews and Information"
Current Events, Original Articles, Tips, Rumors, Gossip and Information
Hardware - Software - Corporate - R & D - Imports

IMPORTANT NOTICE

STReport, with its policy of not accepting any input relative to content from paid advertisers, has over the years, developed the reputation of "saying it like it is." When it comes to our editorials, product evaluations, reviews and over-views, we shall always keep our readers interests first and foremost. With the user in mind, STReport further pledges to maintain the reader confidence that has been developed over the years and to continue "living up to such". All we ask is that our readers make certain the manufacturers, publishers etc., know exactly where the information about their products appeared. In closing, we shall arduously endeavor to meet and further develop the high standards of straight forwardness our readers have come to expect in each and every issue.

The Publisher, Staff & Editors

From the Editor's Desk...

My, my, did I raise a few hackles with last week's editorial?? You bet I did.. I selected the two most emotional responses to last week's editorial and we have the end result in this week's "MailCall." It never ceases to amaze me as to how much people will say or do in the face of facts to avoid admitting that the facts are there and are real. The Republican Party, henceforth called the "GOP" (good acronym for them) is in fact behind the "Get Clinton JIHAD." This time though, with the tapes, they've really blown it. To begin, the GOP has indeed "swung the vote" to release the video tapes of the "secret" Grand Jury Testimony of Bill Clinton. To echo a very profound if not telling remark, the goofs on The Hill who have voted and released the tape are now responsible for bringing forth the most serious blow to Law Enforcement Investigative and Prosecutorial Procedures the country has yet to endure. Even more detrimental that the Miranda Decision. I can see and hear it now, US Attorney to citizen "You can testify against that Mafia Don, your testimony before the investigating Grand Jury will be kept secret" the Citizen's reply: "Yeah Sure!! Just like it was for Clinton, take a hike!"

And so, the GOP has shown their true colors once again. Yes sir, they've proven all over again that there is no such thing as "FAIR & EQUAL" treatment under the law: Gotti, Noriega, Nixon and countless other BAD

guys have had all the Grand Jury Investigative testimony KEPT SECRET. But not Bill Clinton.

Further, have you listened to all the lamenting and rhetorical threats by the members of the GOP about the anticipated revelations of the secret sides of their private lives?? Especially after Rep. Henry Hyde R. IL , had his youthful extramarital tryst exposed?? Hah! talk about running for cover!! So they now threaten Clinton and The White House... because of the Hyde disclosure, it almost guarantees impeachment proceedings. Honorable people eh? Not!! To use the Constitution as a cudgel is a corruption of Elected Responsibility and Public Officialdom. The GOP of today is truly made up of a bunch of screwballs. The real shame of it all is they are but a reflection of us because they are us. I am profoundly ashamed of their collective anal retentiveness and selfishness. The Democrats are not far behind. They are acting like a bag of jelly-backed wimps instead of defending the "right to privacy" (complete) for all duly elected officials. It is a sad time in our country's history when we see these slimeball politicians, special prosecutors and THE PRESS CORP. so deeply wallowing in each other's sex lives to make the natural human libido become a total liability. Next, we will be reading about the "kinky sex" between legitimately married politicians.

It is truly time the politicians of this great nation got back on track. Running the government, doing the citizen's and taxpayer's bidding instead of running each other into the ground. Can you imagine how much good the Oh, so self-righteous Biden's, Hyde's, Hatch's, Amato's and all the other "self serving loudmouths" on the Hill could have done had they directed all this energy and taxpayer dollars toward doing good for the citizen's of this country?? Especially the elderly, homeless and youngsters.

Ralph

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LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS
Weekly Happenings in the Computer World
Compiled by: Dana P. Jacobson

Judge Rejects Microsoft Request To Throw Out Charges

WASHINGTON - Federal District Court Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson has turned down Microsoft Corp.'s attempt to get Justice Department allegations against it thrown out, setting the stage for a major antitrust trial.

Jackson did dismiss one claim by 20 states, which had made some of their own allegations. The judge also approved an agreement by Microsoft and the

government to move the trial's starting date from this month to Oct. 15.

Another hearing will be held Thursday.

Jackson ruled that Microsoft must stand trial on Justice Department and state allegations that it illegally maintained a monopoly in its operating system software and illegally tried to extend that monopoly to Internet Web browsers.

The judge said in his 26-page opinion that there are enough facts in dispute that a trial must be held.

But the judge ruled that a related claim by the states that Microsoft leveraged its monopoly for competitive advantage is not covered by antitrust law.

Microsoft Not Surprised by Ruling

Microsoft Corp. chief operating officer Bob Herbold said Tuesday the company was not surprised by a judge's ruling that an antitrust case against the software giant must go to trial.

"Judge Jackson had given us the impression he wanted a trial," Herbold said. Herbold said the company runs an "ethical business" and would be ready for a trial slated to begin Oct. 15.

He also said sales of the company's Windows 98 operating system upgrade remain "slightly ahead" of the unit pace set by Windows 95, which was launched into a far smaller installed base. Without providing further specifics, he said the company had shipped more than 1.5 million copies of the upgrade since its launch on June 25.

Digital Officials Say Microsoft Pressured Company

Five current and former executives of Digital Equipment Corp. said their company was forced to drop a planned Internet product last year under threats from Microsoft Corp. Chairman Bill Gates, The New York Times reported. This offers new evidence supporting the government's allegations that Microsoft routinely suppresses competition in any new market that might threaten its monopoly in personal computer operating systems, the report said.

The Digital executives said their company disbanded a product development group after Gates told then Digital CEO Robert Palmer that a product the group was developing with Oracle Corp. would threaten an earlier deal for Microsoft to develop a version of its Windows NT operating system for Digital's new processor. A Microsoft spokesman Wednesday said his company placed no improper pressure on Digital.

Quark Drops Efforts To Take Over Rival Adobe

Quark Inc., a privately held publishing and graphic software company, on Monday dropped its efforts to take over its chief rival, Adobe Systems

Inc., saying it did not believe a hostile deal would be beneficial for either company.

Quark said in August it was interested in pursuing discussions with Adobe to buy all or a part of its rival, but Adobe quickly said that it was not for sale.

Adobe, based in San Jose, Calif., and Denver-based Quark together dominate the market for publishing and graphics software used to print newspapers, magazines and brochures with products such as QuarkXPress and Adobe's PageMaker.

' 'Since last week, we have again tried to open a dialogue with Adobe, but to no avail -- they have not returned our phone calls. We wanted to engage in friendly discussions regarding the specifics of our proposal, but Adobe is not even willing to do that,' ' Quark President Fred Ebrahimi said in a statement.

Quark said it would pursue other acquisitions that would help it provide new products and services.

' 'Adobe has made it clear that it is not interested in pursuing any type of friendly transaction, even if it would benefit the Adobe stockholders,' ' Ebrahimi said.

Quark founder and Chairman Tim Gill said the company had sought a friendly deal with Adobe and did not think that a hostile deal would be ' 'beneficial to Quark, Adobe, the Adobe stockholders or our respective customers.' '

' 'Not only would this involve a protracted and expensive legal battle in light of Adobe's poison pill and other defenses, but we are also concerned that it could significantly detract from our day-to-day business operations,' ' Gill said.

In recent months, Adobe has been hurt by slowing sales of its software to Apple Computer Inc. (AAPL - news) Macintosh computer users and plunging sales in Japan. It also has been criticized for a lack of new products.

Adobe stock is now at \$28.50, up 50 cents from Friday, but down sharply from its 52-week high of \$53.125 on Nasdaq.

Industry analysts had said, however, that they doubted the 17-year-old Quark could raise the money to buy Adobe, whose 1997 revenue of \$919 million dwarfs Quark's, and that any deal would have faced high antitrust hurdles.

' 'The whole thing was preposterous anyway,' ' said Peter Rogers, an analyst at Volpe Brown.

MindSpring Buys DirectNet Subscribers

ATLANTA - MindSpring Enterprise Inc. said it has bought the consumer dial-up Internet subscribers of DirectNet of Southern California LLC of Los Angeles for undisclosed terms.

Each DirectNet subscriber will receive the MindSpring Starter Kit, which

includes MindSpring's user access interface and a complete suite of Internet software for Windows 95, Windows 3.x, or Macintosh.

Transition of the DirectNet subscribers should be complete within 30 days, the national Internet service provider said in a statement.

DirectNet currently serves about 1,200 subscribers in metropolitan Los Angeles. As of June 30, MindSpring reported 393,000 customers.

Seagate Launches Backup Software Products

Seagate Technology Inc.'s majority-owned Seagate Software Inc on Monday announced the launch of a series of backup software products.

The software products include Seagate Backup Exec for Windows NT, Seagate Backup Exec Agent for SQL Server, Seagate Backup Exec Agent for Exchange Server, Seagate Replication Exec, and Seagate RAIDirector, it said.

The software, which has multi-language support in English, French, German, Spanish and Japanese, will expand language support to include Italian, Portuguese and Chinese planned by the end of the year, the company said.

Director Kevin Bush said the products have great potential in the region as data base protection is fast becoming one of the most significant elements for today's enterprises.

Seagate Software opened a Hong Kong office three months ago, will set up an office in Beijing shortly and in other areas in the Asia Pacific region.

'We are very bullish on the Asia Pacific market,' Bush said.

Seagate Software's annual revenue grew 35.2 percent to \$293.23 million for the fiscal year ended in June 1998.

IBM to Announce World's Smallest Disk Drive

IBM will unveil Wednesday the world's smallest and lightest disk drive - a potential boon to the digital camera market and other consumer electronics devices with increasing demands for data storage.

Weighing less than an AA battery, the drive could be used in car-navigation systems to store maps, to pack addresses, schedules and phone numbers in handheld computers and could pose a threat to the most popular type of data storage now used in digital cameras, called flash memory.

Besides disk drive advancements, the relational database - a powerful software tool to store, organize and sort data - came from IBM's research center in California's Silicon Valley.

Online Reference Librarians Take Bite Out of Info Quest

In the days before the Internet, if you wanted to learn more about a subject a good place to start was the reference section of your school library or local public library. If the librarians at the desk did not know the answer, they always knew where to look. Now, with the Web evolving into the world's largest repository of information, companies such as Ask Jeeves (<http://www.askjeeves.com>), InfoPlease (<http://www.infoplease.com>), Answers.com (<http://www.answers.com>), and Electric Library (<http://elibrary.com>) are attempting to duplicate the services of flesh-and-blood reference librarians.

Expect to see more of these reference services soon. Officials at Ask Jeeves and Information Please are negotiating partnerships pairing them with major portal sites - such as Yahoo! (<http://www.yahoo.com>) - that are popular gateways for users seeking information on the Web.

U S West Also Wants to Charge for Internet Calls

U S West is the second local phone company with plans to charge companies that carry long-distance phone calls over the Internet the same fees traditional long-distance companies must pay. The move could narrow the cost savings enjoyed by people making Internet calls.

BellSouth several weeks ago announced plans to do the same thing, prompting analysts to say it will be a test case for federal regulators. Less than 10 companies would be affected by U S West's decision, said spokeswoman Emily Harrison.

The companies have been notified that they will begin getting charged for the fees in November, she said. U S West declined to identify the companies.

I'm OK. You're OK. We're all OK -- Because We're Online

If you spent more than a few hours surfing the World Wide Web over the past week, then repeat after me: I am not depressed. I am not depressed. I am not depressed.

OK, now that you have convinced yourself, it's time to convince the folks over at Carnegie Mellon University. That's because a recent study by CMU's HomeNet research project found that heavy Web use makes people feel lonely and depressed.

According to HomeNet, the "Internet paradox" is that a social technology actually can foster antisocial behavior. Translation: People who network online don't network offline.

If the study is right, then we may be in for some serious trouble. As The Net Set reported a few weeks back, Nielsen Media Research says that 70.5 million adults in the U.S. are logging onto the Internet. Now, imagine what would transpire if all of those people logged off in a severe state of depression. Talk about "no joy in Muddville."

But that's assuming that the HomeNet findings are correct. And in The Net Set's opinion, they're not. Cyberdepression, you say? Ha!

Don't take our word for it. Here's a cyberdepression screening test that compares typical symptoms of depression with The Net Set's own online impressions.

Question 1: While using the Internet, have you ever felt sad or "empty"?

Well, The Net Set has never come away from a surfing experience feeling either. Except, of course, after encountering disappointing Web sites that fail to live up to expectations. And any Netizen can tell you that there are plenty of those. But that's just an occasional blue mood, wouldn't you say?

Question 2: Has surfing ever brought on insomnia or oversleeping?

Sure, what Net devotee hasn't burned the midnight oil and had a tough time getting up the morning after? That doesn't make us depressed, does it?

Question 3: Have you noticed any restlessness or irritability since getting online regularly?

It's true that slow home pages can make The Net Set pretty restless. And how can you avoid getting irritable when dead links keep turning up "Not Found" messages. But those are normal reactions, don't you think?

Question 4: While online, have you observed any physical symptoms such as headaches or chronic pain?

Sure, everyone's heard of carpal tunnel syndrome. And staring at a computer screen for hours isn't exactly what the optometrist ordered. But those aren't depressive disorders. Right?

Actually, maybe the folks at Carnegie Mellon have a point after all.

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KID'S COMPUTING CORNER

By Frank Sereno
fsereno@streport.com

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Hurry to your local software retailer, as the above offers are available for a limited time. Check with your favorite store for a promotional schedule.

Corel Print House Magic Deluxe

Corel Corporation
for Windows 95 and Windows NT 4.0
Suggested Retail Price - \$69
Estimated Retail Price - \$45
<http://www.corel.com>

by Donna Lines (dlines@streport.com)

Print House Magic Deluxe, Version 3 gives you the same great features as Print House Magic, but adds thousands of new graphics and photographs. Included in the package are 3 separate, but well-integrated programs: Corel Print House 3, Corel Photo House 2, and Corel Family & Friends. It also includes Paper Direct paper samples and valuable coupons for Kodak products and digital imaging services.

Corel Print House Magic Deluxe is a fun and user-friendly program that the whole family will enjoy. You can create banners, signs, cards, certificates, envelopes, labels, business forms and more. Customize the samples or create your own designs. Corel has included 40,500 high-quality clipart images in over 80 categories (that's 15,500 more images than in the Standard edition); 55,000 royalty-free professional photos (up from 5,500); dozens of true 3D objects; over 2500 sample projects; 150 borders; 200 backdrops and 300 fonts. If you need help finding just the right words for that special greeting card, Corel includes 1,000 phrases to choose from. Corel includes a full color user's manual that includes thumbnails of the clipart, 3D objects, and photographs.

I found the program's interface easy to understand and use. The menus are straight forward and you will have little trouble using the program right out of the box. The property bar is context sensitive, automatically displaying the available commands for the object that you are editing. Although there are several menus to work through, depending on how much you are going to add to your project or customize a sample project, the program is very easy to navigate. The user's manual provides a short tutorial for Corel Print House 3 and Photo House 2 to get you started.

There are lots of options to customize your project. I found the text presets fun to use. Just highlight the text you would like to apply the preset to and double click on the text preset. You can even create your own text presets by dragging your customized text into the text preset dialog box. I liked the ability to fade an object. Fading a background allows you to add some color and graphics in the background, without overwhelming the main subject. You can add a shape to your object, skew, rotate, flip, just to name a few. There are many other features included, many from Corel's high end graphics program, CorelDRAW.

Photo House 2 is an intuitive photo-editing program. It has many of the same features found in its "big brother," Corel Photo-Paint. You can easily repair or retouch your photos with the red eye remover, or even remove dust and scratches with just a couple of clicks of the mouse. Add amazing effects to your photo such as page curl, change colors, add a lens refraction, emboss, add texture, or make your photo look like a drawing. You can even use the included Auto F/X program to create a unique frame for your photo. The possibilities are endless.

Family & Friends helps you organize your busy life with the Calendar, Address Book, List Book, and reminders. You can populate the Calendar with special events such as birthdays and anniversaries, then set up the program to remind you up to 365 days in advance of the special event. The Address Book is a handy reference for all your contacts. You can list each person's name, address, home, work, fax, and mobile phone number, and even their e-mail address. You can also list special events for that person's birthday, anniversary, special notes, and tie the address record to a list created in the List Book. The List Book allows you to create lists of people or items. I created a list of all of my collectibles. The program has some limitations (e.g., you cannot sort the data once entered). I found the List Book a little difficult to use and the user's manual contains very little instruction on this feature. Family & Friends is a nice bonus program that complements the other two programs well.

One of the advertised bonuses for Print House Magic Deluxe owners is access to dozens of free animated electronic greeting cards through the software on a special web page (in addition to those at Corel Greetings Online). I was unable to access the special web page during the review period. Corel is addressing the problem and should have it corrected within a few days.

Corel Print House Magic Deluxe is a value-packed program that you will enjoy using again and again. The options are absolutely endless for customization of projects. You can even import clipart and photos from other programs. You may never purchase a greeting card or stationary off-the-shelf again!

System Requirements:

486 DX or better processor, Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0, 8 MB System RAM (16 MB RAM for Windows NT), SGVA Card and Monitor, mouse or tablet, and CD ROM drive.

EDUPAGE STR Focus Keeping the users informed

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WINNERS OF STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST

There were more than 300 entries to the student essay contest sponsored by Edupage and Educom Review. We want the entrants to know that we enjoyed reading their submissions and that selecting the winners was an impossibly difficult task. We offer our congratulations to the following winners and the institutions with which they are affiliated:

First Prize Winner (\$1,000):

- * Christian Crews, University of Houston-Clear Lake (M.S. Program in Studies of the Future). His essay will be published in the Jan/Feb 1999 issue of Educom Review.

Second Prize Winners (\$100 each):

- * Abbie Brown, Indiana University - Bloomington (Instructional Systems Technology)
- * Julie Chen, University of Texas at Austin (Journalism & Pre-Med)
- * Jennifer.L.Dziura, Dartmouth College (Philosophy & Women's Studies)
- * Anil Kumar, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India
- * Joyce Kyeyune, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda (Mass Communication)

- * B. Babur Turna, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey (Department of History)

Third Prize Winners (\$50 each):

- * Terry Baggett, Illinois State University (Grad. Program in Computers & Telecommunications)
- * Genelle Belmas, University of Minnesota (Journalism & Mass Communication)
- * Anne Marie Dinardo, Georgetown University (Grad. Program in Communications, Culture and Technology)
- * Kalpana Shankar, University of California - Los Angeles
- * Kaushal Sharma, Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta, India

WHITE HOUSE MULLS NEW INTERNET TAX PROPOSAL

Ira Magaziner, President Clinton's senior Internet advisor, has proposed a new plan for tracking and taxing goods sold over the Internet that would use electronic "resident cards" and private-sector escrow agents around the world. Consumers would obtain digital cash at banks that would allow merchants to identify which country the buyer is in, but would reveal no other personal information. Consumption taxes would then be calculated, collected, and placed with an escrow agent who would then funnel the money to the appropriate government. "Governments would get their money more quickly... they would get a higher compliance rate... and the system would be easier to police," says Mr. Magaziner. (Wall Street Journal 11 Sep 98)

MEDIA VISION EXECS INDICTED IN FRAUD CASE

Paul Jain, former CEO of Media Vision Technology of Fremont, Calif., and Steven Allan, former chief financial officer, were indicted in what has been described as the largest financial fraud case ever seen in Silicon Valley. Following a four-year investigation by the FBI and the Justice Department, Jain and Allan were charged with mail, wire and bank fraud, insider trading, money laundering and making false statements to the Securities and Exchange Commission and to Media Vision accountants. The indictment says the two former executives allegedly created false sales and inventory, hid millions of dollars in returned product, recorded shipments as sales before the products were shipped, and misrepresented Media Vision's expenses. Jain and Allan could face up to 10 years in prison and fines of up to \$1 million if convicted. (Reuters 11 Sep 98)

JUDGE'S RULING FREES \$60-MILLION FOR NSF GRANTS U.S.

District Court Judge Thomas F. Hogan has rejected arguments from plaintiffs who have been fighting to prevent money in the "Intellectual Infrastructure Fund" from being spent on the Next Generation Internet project. The plaintiffs -- four companies and nine individuals -- had sued Network Solutions and the National Science Foundation last November, charging that the \$15 portion of the Internet domain name registration fee collected by Network Solutions was actually a tax in disguise, and that it was illegal, because it had been levied, in effect, by NSF rather than Congress. The assets in the fund were then frozen, pending settlement of the case. Congress retroactively authorized the fund's collection in April, and authorized NSF to spend all \$60-million in the fund "in support of networking activities." The plaintiffs then challenged that action, charging that Congress had acted deceptively, not actually calling the fee

a "tax," and had violated its own rules by "sneaking" the provision into the FY 1998 Supplemental Appropriations and Rescissions Act. In his most recent decision, Judge Hogan held that Congress did not have to call the fee a tax in order to ratify it, and that the court was precluded "from interfering with the internal procedures of another branch of government." (Chronicle of Higher Education 11 Sep 98)

MICROSOFT, COMPAQ TEAM UP IN CORPORATE MARKETING PLAN

Microsoft has agreed to license technology for operating large data centers from Compaq Computer, in an effort to boost the performance and reliability of Microsoft's Windows NT operating system. The features include methods for handling large volumes of transactions and for recovering data after disasters. The two companies have also agreed to make Compaq's Digital Unix system more compatible with Windows NT. (Wall Street Journal 11 Sep 98)

RESEARCHERS TARGET E-COMMERCE

A group of scientists meeting at the University of Texas this past weekend says that more funding for research into Internet-related issues such as security, trust and networking could result in a major boost for electronic commerce. The meeting, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, addressed those areas of R&D that are not likely to be pursued by the private sector: "There is a whole segment of society whose job it is to bridge the consumer and the supplier that will be affected by e-commerce," says a Lucent Technologies researcher. "Who is going to investigate what happens to this segment and the bigger picture of how it affects society?" One fear expressed by the researchers is that the proliferation of proprietary technology that results from private, patented research will have an inhibiting effect on e-commerce. The hope is that more publicly funded research would result in equal access to advanced technologies. (TechWeb 15 Sep 98)

MICROSOFT TEAMS UP ON REMOTE CONTROL DEVICE

Microsoft has been working with Harman International Industries to produce a remote control, complete with tiny screen and internal computer, that can be set to perform up to 32 activities on any of 15 separate devices. The product, dubbed Take Control, is the first Microsoft device to emerge with an operating system that isn't based on MS-DOS and Windows. It will be marketed by Harman Kardon for \$350, and Madrigal Audio Labs will offer a \$400 version. (Wall Street Journal 14 Sep 98)

IDC SEES ONLINE SOFTWARE SALES BOOM

International Data Corp. has released a report predicting that online sales of packaged software will soar to \$5.9 billion by 2001. And one area of software sales -- site licenses for businesses -- will be conducted 100% over the Net by 2008. Purchasing the licenses requires a lot of paperwork, says an IDC research director, which is why doing it electronically is so attractive. Electronic purchasing can also make it easier to keep track of who's got what in the organization: "Applied correctly and wrapped with value-added services, it can help them get a view of their software assets." (TechWeb 15 Sep 98)

FCC APPROVES WORLDCOM-MCI MERGER

The Federal Communications Commission has given its approval to WorldCom's takeover of MCI Communications. The new company, called MCI WorldCom, will offer a full range of communications services -- from local and long-distance phone service to Internet connections to 22 million customers in more than 200 countries. (USA Today 14 Sep 98)

VLSI TECHNOLOGY CAN CUT CHIP DESIGN TIME IN HALF

VLSI Technology has developed a new Velocity technology that allows semiconductor hardware and software engineers to work simultaneously, rather than in a laborious back-and-forth process, cutting design time by 50%. "Our key to success is reducing time to market," says the CEO of VLSI. "This is a major step in achieving that." (Wall Street Journal 14 Sep 98)

INTEL: LET US ENTERTAIN YOU (WITH A BILLION CONNECTED PCs)

Though it's still very much in the chip business (and preparing the world for the introduction of the successor to its Pentium II chip, code-named Katmai), Intel Corporation is broadening its focus beyond microchips and planning to become a "platform" technology company. Intel executives say, "Our core business becomes married to the vision of a billion connected PCs, not just microprocessors... It's about the things that bring us information and entertainment... Maybe we are different now. Maybe we have different assets -- not just fabs [chip fabrication factories] and microprocessor lines -- but relationships with other companies, cash, clout, and an understanding of the industry that can make a difference." (Washington Post 15 Sep 98)

ATTACK ON THE NEW YORK TIMES WEB SITE

A group calling itself HFG (or Hacking For Girlies) hacked its way into the New York Times Web site for about nine hours on Sunday, replacing the site's opening screen with images of nude women and a diatribe against the Times for its past coverage of Kevin Mitnick, a convicted felon now serving time for malicious hacking. George Washington University professor Lance Hoffman says, "The material posted by the hackers is offensive, childish, threatening and chilling. It's a good example of why we have to bring accountability to the Internet." (New York Times 14 Sep 98)

INTERNET PROVES ITSELF WITH STARR REPORT DISTRIBUTION

The market research company Relevant Knowledge estimates that 5.9 million people read the Starr report via the Internet. It projected its figures by watching about 8,000 randomly selected Internet users 13 years of age and older in the U.S. (AP 15 Sep 98)

ORACLE CHIEF CALLS GATES "THE POPE OF PC INDUSTRY"

Oracle CEO Larry Ellison says the Justice Department probe into Microsoft's activities is justified: "You can think of Microsoft as the

company that gives you permission. It used to be that you couldn't get divorced unless the church said you could. Right now you can't build personal computers unless Bill gives you permission. If Bill's not in a good mood... he'll say, 'You're doing stuff to annoy me, so I'm going to raise the price of Windows and make you not competitive.' ... Bill Gates is the pope of the personal computer industry. He decides who's going to build." (Investor's Business Daily 14 Sep 98)

PENTAGON CONCERNED ABOUT INFO ON ITS WEB SITES

The U.S. Department of Defense has ordered a comprehensive review of all military Web sites to determine whether they provide information that could be valuable to terrorists. Many of the sites serve as a way of opening communications between officers and enlisted personnel, as well as a means of providing information to military families and the public at large. However, computer advisors to the Pentagon are concerned that online information about troops and their families could be used by terrorists seeking targets for attack. (USA Today 17 Sep 98)

U.S. PLANS TO RELAX LIMITS ON ENCRYPTION EXPORTS

The Clinton administration is planning to further loosen restrictions on the export of data-scrambling technologies for use by certain industries such as insurance and health care. The announcement is similar to one made last year for the financial industry. The plan, which focuses on "key recovery" systems, will ease all controls on products that use a 56-bit key to decode messages, except in seven countries suspected of terrorist activities. In addition, export of products with any length key will be eased for insurance and medical companies, as well as online merchants seeking to encrypt electronic-commerce transactions in 45 countries that have signed an agreement with the U.S. The announcement comes in response to a private-sector proposal made last May that suggested a broad relaxation of the export limits. (Reuters 16 Sep 98)

KAPLAN PLANS ONLINE LAW SCHOOL

Kaplan Educational Centers, the big standardized-test coaching company, is planning to offer the first online law degree through its newly established Concord University School of Law. Concord has received authorization from the California Bureau of Post-Secondary and Vocational Education to grant degrees, which will allow students to sit for the bar in that state. The school does not yet have accreditation from either the state or the American Bar Association, and an ABA spokeswoman says association standards refer to "class time" and library collections "within the facilities." Accreditation is necessary for students who wish to sit for the bar in states other than California. Kaplan says Concord students will receive video lectures via the Internet, and that library materials will be made available online, but the company doesn't plan to apply for accreditation until it can demonstrate its students are learning the same things as traditional students. "We're seeing industry look at the higher-education sector in a way they've never looked before," says Arthur Levine, president of Teachers College at Columbia University. "It's a \$225 billion market where there are questions about price and management. It's ripe for private-sector involvement." (Wall Street Journal 16 Sep 98)

CHOKER POINTS FOR E-COMMERCE

Hal Varian, dean of UC-Berkeley's School of Information Management and Systems, says there are two major hurdles that e-commerce must overcome before it's mainstream: "Micropayments are a tough nut to crack. My guess is people aren't going to want to use a separate form of payment for online commerce as opposed to offline. I think you are going to see some smart cards, store-value cards you can use both in the physical world and the electronic world. The other big bottleneck is the interface. It's quite clear nobody really wants to sit in front of the computer to read an extended amount of material or watch a movie clip, or even look at a lot of still images. You are going to have an interface people feel much more comfortable with. Maybe it's WebTV or electronic books." (TechWeb 17 Sep 98)

INTEL LICENSES SOFTWARE TO REALNETWORKS

In an agreement that will result in new demand for Pentium 2 chips, Intel is licensing its technology for advanced video software to Seattle-based RealNetworks Inc., which will use it to improve the quality of videos transmitted over the Internet. (AP 16 Sep 98)

MIMIC FOR THE iMAC

A \$499 computer manufactured by eMachines Inc. through a joint venture between South Korean companies TriGem Inc and Korean Data Systems will offer the general look-and-feel of an Apple iMac system, but will be based on the Windows operating system and be powered by Intel's new 333-megahertz Celeron processor. In appearance, it will be taller and less squat than an iMac, will be colored (possibly green or ivory), and -- unlike the iMac -- will have a floppy disk drive. The systems will be introduced next April. (San Jose Mercury News 16 Sep 98)

DOUBTS ABOUT DIVX

Divx, the alternative technology to DVD (digital video disk) that is backed by Circuit City, is set to roll out nationally in the next few weeks and analysts say the big question is whether Divx (digital video express) will be DOA (dead on arrival). The format enables users to rent a digital movie, watch it over a period of two days, and then throw it away, or pay more to reactivate or purchase it. Critics charge the disposable format means that viewers will be going to video stores only half as often, since they won't have to return their movies. Also, unlike DVD, Divx movies can't be watched on a computer -- an option that has little appeal now, but may become more popular in the future. Meanwhile, Circuit City has tested its new product in two markets -- San Francisco and Richmond, Va. -- and says the results are "encouraging." (Los Angeles Times 17 Sep 98)

HACKER DIVERTS U S WEST COMPUTERS IN SEARCH OF PRIME

A 28-year-old computer expert is under investigation for computer fraud, having allegedly diverted 2,585 U S West computers to assist him in his effort to solve a 350-year-old math problem -- the search for a new prime number. The man, who has not been charged, is a contract computer consultant working for a vendor for U S West. "I've worked on this (math)

problem for a long time," he told investigators. "When I started working at U S West, all that computational power was just too tempting for me." Investigators estimate that during a very short period he used 10.63 years worth of computer processing time -- while the computers should have been hard at work retrieving telephone numbers for U S West customers. (AP 16 Sep 98)

TOYS R THE INTERNET

Toys R Us Inc. is closing 90 stores (40 in the U.S. and 50 overseas), and analysts say that one of the reasons is the growing challenge the company faces as a result of the popularity of video games and the Internet competing for children's time with traditional toys. (Washington Post 17 Sep 98)

BANNED FROM DOING BUSINESS ON THE NET

Because he defrauded 25 people in online computer auctions, a Florida man has been banned for life from doing any business on the Internet, as part of a settlement reached with the Federal Trade Commission. (AP 16 Sep 98)

NEW!

by R. F. Mariano

The "Antenna Farm" is done and its gorgeous. I checked out a slew of different types of setups ranging high priced tower "deals" that ultimately proved to be rather "overpriced" and "underdesigned" to outright garbage being peddled as the latest and greatest technology for the installation of Radar domes, Open Arrays, GPS and Differential Antenna etc.. Its amazing when one finds the best solution in one's own "backyard". The company that fabricated the "Antenna Farm" for Pablo Creek Marina was Offshore Marine Components in Mayport, FL. We do have a few photos to present:

[PICTURE]

Above, we see Mike Adams of Pablo Creek Marina laying out the installation of the power cables, data cables and locations of the various devices associated with the Radar, DGPS, and Depthsounder. To Mike's right you can see the "Antenna Farm" from Offshore Marine and installed by Pablo Creek Marina. Additionally, you can now see the magnificent decals from Graphitek that were trimmed and applied by Jean Shimp of Shimp Signs.

[PICTURE]

Hiya Mike! Gotta hand it to you.... and all the guys at PCM. Y'all know how to get the job done.

My mind's made up... These folks are the best as far as we are concerned.

[PICTURES]

The final layout for the devices. from left to right, Furuno 1621mk2 Radar, Northstar DGPS, Compass, Garmin 235 Depthsounder./GPS. Incidentally, the Toshiba T4850CT Laptop that'll tie all these goodies together through the NMEA Standard Ports will be mounted directly beneath the Radar Head on its own fold-away shelf. The Laptop will operate on its AC charger/power supply and a dedicated 150watt inverter.

The Port and Starboard Decals are gorgeous "in-person". The darn things are almost true 3D. We are getting closer and closer to the BIG day. The anti-fouling bottom paint is next and then... in the water we go.

Florida Fishing and Tide Guide

Have you ever wanted or wished for an easy way to get back to a fishing hot spot or predict, with reasonable accuracy, the best times to go for your favorite type of fishing? Well Bunkie, there is a way! Its a program called Florida Fishing and Tide Guide. This software package almost I said almost makes the fish jump in the boat and then the Fishbox! Actually, FFTG is very well done. It answers just about every need you might find as far as documenting each fishing trip.

Additionally, this program allows you to reference:

- * NOAA Charts of the Entire State
- * Tides and Currents for all of Florida
- * Info on Florida Game Fish and Fishing Methods
- * Solunar Tables
- * Sunrise/Sunset Times
- * Moon Phases
- * Florida Fishing Regulations
- * Fishing Records
- * Fishing Knots and How to Tie them
- * Fishing Term Glossary
- * Fly Selector Guide
- * Fishing Statistics
- * Data Analyzation
- * GPS Settings

With all this data, the average Fisherman is able to hit the fishing grounds (term for a known fishing area on the open water) with the combined experience of many seasoned anglers. Of course there's no guarantee of catching fish... that's all up to them, but you can be certain of being able to "do all the right things".

To sum up the overview of Florida Fishing and Tide Guide, this puppy is a "Gotta Have" for any serious Fisherman. It is, without a doubt, the easiest, most comprehensive (that means it hold a lot of retrievable info about fishing) Saltwater Fishing database we seen thus far. In a Nutshell, You NEED this software if you plan to catch fish on a consistent basis.

Below are a few screen shots;

[PICTURES]

Above, we see the NOAA Chart section. Here, we are able to locate sites, bottom conditions and other prime fishing environments. When used in conjunction with more accurate charting software or NOAA Charts themselves this becomes an un-beatable combination for locating the fish.

[PICTURE]

This (above) is what I call the "incentive section of the program. Everytime I look at these records I find my self saying, "I can do that too!" So will you. Because with FFTG, it all gets that much easier to achieve.

Oh well there is always the next guy and of course our children to think of. That's one of the major reasons for the FMP and the Fishing Regulations they enforce. They're simply making certain there will be fishing for everyone in the future. I just wish they would rethink the goofy regulation scheme on Red Drum (better known as Red Bass) something closer to Georgia's Rule on Red Bass or even Texas' Rule would be easier to follow that the rule on Reds we have in Florida.

Above is the "Here's all the help you need" section. This area of FFTG will most certainly give a good deal of the assistance needed to land a biggie or two. System Requirements:

- * IBM Compatible PC
- * 486Mhz or Better
- * Windows 3x - Windows 9x
- * 8mb RAM
- * 10mb Free HD Space
- * CDROM Drive
- * Data good through 1998
- * All Data updatable via the Internet www.saltwatersoftware.co

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Fishing for:
Big Southern Flounders

By Ralph F. Mariano

Drifting blindly on sandy flats for Southern Flounder will, during certain times of the year produce sufficient fish. But to hook the real "Doormats," you must concentrate your efforts on fishing structured areas of the bottom while you're strategically anchored. Large Flounders, fish in the 7 - 20 pound class, (Record is 20lbs, 9oz - 1983 Nassau County, FL - ctsy FFTG) tend to congregate around structure such as wrecks, rock piles and hard-bottom areas. They particularly like to hang out where sandy bottoms coincide (meet) with structure. Big Southern Flounder are

attracted to structured spots for the same reason all predatory fish come to such areas. To find food such as mud minnows, shrimp, crabs, tiger minnows, finger mullet and more. With this thought in mind, the "anchoring on structure" method of Flounder fishing seems rather straight forward. Everybody should be doing it. But most Flounder fishermen don't. Instead, most simply drift fish mud and sand flats. "Flounder" and "drifting" have become almost synonymous among flounder fishermen of all types.

Fact is, by drifting, you can indeed catch a mess of Flounder, including some big Flounder during certain times of the year, particularly during the popular spring spawn and less-well-known fall spawn. During these two runs, large schools of Flounder gather on the flats. Most of the fish are the smaller males, all set to fertilize the eggs of big females once the eggs are released. If you find the spawning fish, the action is fast. And the easy fishing can last for days or even weeks. The hardest part is hooking a "keeper," since the most abundant Flounder are the small, aggressive males. That's not to say that big males or female Flounders aren't caught at these times. They most definitely are. But please bear in mind, among the large numbers of boats drifting for Flounders during the spawn, a very small percentage hook Big Doormats in the 7- 20 pound range. For anglers who want to increase their chances of hooking big Southern Flounders as well as those who want to pursue flounders all year, structure fishing is the key. Don't expect large quantities, just big fish.

Check these pointers out:

Types of Structure

There is no bad type of structure for Southern Flounder. Fish for them around just about any conceivable type of salt water structure -- docks, wrecks, rock piles, shale bottom, gravel bottom, oyster and mussel bottom, scattered rocks, inshore reefs, jetties and seawalls. Depth does not seem to be a critical factor, either. This may surprise the drift fishermen, since the spawning aggregations tend to stick to a particular depth at any given time. Not so with structure dwelling Flounders. Their main objective is food, and they'll swim anywhere to find it. We've caught Flounder on structure as deep as 60 feet and as shallow as 5 feet. Most of the structured spots fished are anywhere from 5 to 75 feet deep. Different types of structure do require different techniques. Flounder structure can be divided into two basic categories:

- * high plane (visible)
- * low plane (invisible)

High plane structure includes docks, wrecks, rock piles, reefs, jetties and seawalls. (In other words visible structure) Ninety percent of the time, Flounder will stake out or actively hunt near the base of high plane structure -- around the structure/sand coincidental (meet) zones. Occasionally, we will hook a fish right on top of a wreck or one hunkered down on top a flat boulder in a rock pile, but this is not the rule, its an exception. With this in mind, you should anchor your boat so you can fish the coincidental zone (bottom area immediately adjacent to the structure area). You should also work the structure itself, since a Flounder may also hunt within the structure zone but be prepared to lose terminal tackle.

Low plane structure includes hard shale bottom, oyster and mussel bottom, gravel bottom and small scattered rocks. In this case, most Flounder move

right into the structure area. You should anchor your boat so that you can present your lures and baits directly within the structure zone.

Try Anchoring Up

No matter what type of structure or depth, the best method calls for anchoring just slightly upwind or up-current from the structure. Whether you're working the base of the structure or the structure itself, keep your presentation on or very near the bottom, well within the all-important vertical feeding zone of the bottom-dwelling Doormats.

Water movement or current is an important factor in Flounder fishing. Flounders definitely feed more actively when there's a nice current, carrying bait fish and other forage around the structure zone. Many factors influence current, but tides are certainly one of the strongest. So, time your fishing to the middle part of the falling or rising tide, when water movement is at its best.

No matter what stage of the tide you're fishing, if you're a private boater who's after a "Doormat", remember this: Stop drifting and start anchoring on or near wrecks, rock piles, reefs and hard bottom spots. It's the coincidental zone of your next doormat.

Use the Right Baits and Techniques

Big fish go after big baits. And a big live bait works great in attracting doormats. Some of the best include combinations of live baits, tiger and mud minnows, finger mullet, squid, clams, crabs or even shrimp and cigar minnows. Many big Southern Flounders have been hooked on soft plastic lures, rigged on a lead head or the famous, 1/2 - 1 oz. Diamond Jig. A real favorite lure is the single-tail, four to six-inch flutter tail. The "glow green and glow orange" colors have produced more big Flounders than any other for us. Use lead heads with a 5/0 hook and ranging in weight from 3/8 to 1 ounce, depending on how much we need to keep the lure working on the bottom.

Despite the presence of big fish, most successful Flounder anglers recommend using the lightest line possible. Most prefer 15-pound test line; hardly any use line heavier than 20-pound test. For fishing live bait, a sliding egg sinker held above the hook by an in-line barrel swivel or small split-shot keeps the bait on the bottom. A sharp hook is mandatory for Flounder fishing. Kahle hooks are rapidly growing in popularity for live bait Flounder fishing, as they seemingly increase the "hook up" ratio. Carry a variety of sizes -- from 1 to 4/0 thus handling a wide range of sizes in live baits.

Anglers who keep their baits moving around structure catch more Flounder. Southern Flounders are sight feeders. Movement triggers strikes. This is one reason lures produce well. The most productive technique calls for "twitching" the bait or lure on the bottom to attract the attention of Flounders. As Flounders lay hiding, they will voraciously chase and grab a good-looking meal. You simply have to "entice" the Flounders to do so.

Speaking of good Meals:

Here's one of my favorites using flounder filets:

2 eggs
3/4 cup freshly grated parmesan or locatelli cheese
2 tbsps. self rising flour
2tbsps. finely chopped garlic
4 fish filets (4 to 6 oz. ea.)
3 tbsps. olive oil
3 tbsps. margarine or lightly salted butter
1/2 cup finely chopped nuts (optional)

Place a 10 x 15 baking pan in oven as it preheats to 425 degrees. Beat eggs until blended in a shallow dish. On wax paper combine flour and cheese. Rinse fish and pat dry. Dip each filet in egg to coat, drain briefly. Then coat with cheese mixture. Place fish in a single layer on wax paper. Remove pan from oven, add oil, chopped garlic and margarine then swirl until margarine is melted. Lay a filet in pan, turning to coat with seasoned olive oil mixture. Repeat with remaining filets arranging pieces slightly apart in pan. Sprinkle with nuts and any remaining flour-cheese left over. Bake uncovered in a 425 degree oven 7 to 10 minutes or until fish is done. Broil for one minute to brown slightly before serving. Serves 4. (Increase quantities proportionally for more servings)

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The Linux Advocate

Be Back NEXT Week

STR Editor's Mail Call "...a place for the readers to be heard"

Editor's MailBag

Messages * NOT EDITED * for content

From: James L Peck Jr [peckjl@gptmail.globalpac.com]
Sent: Monday, August 10, 1998 6:43 AM
To: rmariano@streport.com
Subject: Too Old To Understand

I have lessened to all the noise being generated by the press and the Republicans and the Democrats. Everyone seems to forget the JOB of the President. He is to receive data from every source available to our country, filter it through the cabinet and act on it. I, as a citizen, will never see the data upon which his decisions are made. The press sees some of it and then reports only the part of the part they see fit. No one but the president sees all the data and no one but he gets to make the decision.

Clenton, The President, has been given this opportunity by the people. They expect him to make decisions that favor the country. Clenton has proven by his actions that he has neither the will or the desire to choose for the better of the country when his own pleasure is involved.

He ran to England instead of for filling his obligation to the nation by (1) joining the military, (2) protesting, (3) defying the draft. He played around on his wife prior to leaving his home state. The money scandals. And now Sex on the job. Is this great judgment. Lied to the people about it. Is this HONOR. Should this man be in a position to send our sons and daughters to war (in harms way) or place the country in a bad position.

I could care less what other Presidents did or did not do. We can judge them by history. Clenton is in place today. He has proven his Honor, thought process and trustworthiness. Does he truly have to heart the nation before we try to do better.

Jim Peck

Jim,

Sad to say, I think you need to bone up on your social studies and US Government in particular. Forget about Funk and Wagnalls or the Oxford Dictionary. We can arrive at the gist of your missive. Surely you must agree that selective punitive measures are totally unfair and have no place in a free society. Also I am certain you have no liking for group punishment. So, with that I'll re-iterate my contention that Clinton should be treated like his Presidential Predecessors.. At the time they were ALL President of this country, their private sexual lives were never invaded and/or bandied about like so many party jokes. Clinton has been done dirty by the GOP. There is no denying this FACT. Its been that way since Bill Clinton defeated Georgie Boy. Newt led the hit parade back then.

Message 80373

From: Ralph Mariano (STREPORT)

To: ALL (& Greg Evans)

Posted: 9/15/98 3:05 PM

Reply to: 80369

"I had to respond to your editorial this week as too many statements you made were false or misleading. Here goes, (and I'm typing this live so please excuse _my_ typos): "

False???? Misleading???? THAT might be your interpretation but what was in the editorial was, in every instance, FACT.

"1. The Republicans could not stop Ken Starr, and neither could anyone in Congress. That is the law. Only the President can fire an Independent Counsel through the Justice Department."

They might not have been able to STOP Ken Starr, but their majority vote could've limited and in fact, stopped the funding of the Great Inquisition of the Century. Once the DOJ opened the doors the only way for Starr to be stopped was through Presidential or Executive Order with the Approval of the House and Senate. That we BOTH know would never have been forthcoming.

"2. Janet Reno (I know you're not a fan of hers) who expanded the investigation to include Monica Lewinski. Prior to this, a three judge panel had expanded the OIC's scope to include Travelgate, Filegate, etc."

3. Ken Starr has been the most succesful Independent Counsel. His investigation has resulted in more than a dozen convictions including the Governor of Arkansas for crimes committed in connection with the original Whitewater investigation.

My like or dislike of Janet Reno has no bearing on these matters. Janet Reno would never have expanded Starr's investigation had the GOP members of both Houses not pushed the issue to the rafters. Travel File gate etc., all went nowhere fast. How can you call reams upon reams of bland anmd mostly irresponsible accusation success?? Successful in what" Delving into Clinton's Zipper? And Monica's perfectly preserved "stained" dress?? I suppose this is all normal behavior for a young woman to keep a dress in the sort of condition for months on end!! It sure is.. IF she is on a quest. This is not a true investigation! its been a foul smelling witch hunt from day one. Bush wanted re-election so bad he tasted it!! I, for one, had enough of the CIA's Man in the Whitehouse and was ever so glad to see him out the door. Yet it would appear he is still playing the game form behind the scenes. As all this garbage going on is so "CIA-like" in its scope and depth.

"4. The election of 1994 (where not a single Republican was defeated) puts the lie to your statement that they have been trying to thwart the "will of the people". Oops, that should have been "incumbent"."

True.... the incumbents carried the elections. But no statement was made by such its happened in many previous national elections. So what's your point?? The Ballots were expertly setup so the mad rush voters simply punched rows as always. Since we were just coming out of Bush's Administration, there would have been a large number of incumbent Republicans. Again so what?? Ever since that day, the Republicans have done everything in their power to thwart anything Clinton has attempted to do. With Newt "The Beaut" leading the "Pack of Yapping GOP Dogs." Of course they were unable in most cases since what was being done was the right thing for both this country as a nation and its populace.

"5. The budget is still not in balance because the government is spending excess Social Security receipts. So much for saving Social Security first."

Baloney!!!! Even the Republicans have admitted Clinton balanced the budget. So much so they wanted to make a large TAX CUT to absorb the surplus. Check your facts. I did.

"6. The budget would not even be in the shape it currently is in if 1992's Health Care reform legislation had been passed. In fact, without a massive tax increase the budget would be out of balance by half a trillion dollars."

Not true..... That was the Republican malarkey at the time. And still is now.

"7. The national debt has increased from 3 to 5 trillion in the last 6 years. (I know you didn't mention this, but it relates to balancing the budget)."

Regardless..... the budget remains balanced at this time no matter what the figures amount to...

"Finally, don't worry, there will be additional information coming out about the other administration scandals. I feel sorry for the President and sorry for people who have to find some way, any way, to defend him. If impeachment decisions were made as a result of balancing the crime(s) with accomplishments, Nixon would have finished out his term -- detente with the USSR, opening dialog with China, the EPA, food stamps, etc."

I'm not worried, Clinton's approval ratings are as high as they ever were. Regardless of whatever "Herr Starr" comes out with subsequently, it'll look like exactly what it is, afterthoughts and more diatribe. Had Starr stayed with the Whitewater matters.... he'd never have lost his credibility. He's in the

toilet right along with many of today's politicians.

RFM....

Special Notice!! STR Infofile File format for Articles
File Format for STReport

All articles submitted to STReport for publication must be sent in the following format. Please use the format requested. Any files received that do not conform will not be used. The article must be in an importable word processor format for Word 6.0 and/or Word Perfect 7^ . The margins are .05" left and 1.0" Monospaced fonts are not to be used. Please use proportional fonting only and at Twelve (12) points.

- * No Indenting on any paragraphs!!
- * No Indenting of any lines or "special gimmicks"
- * No underlining!
- * Columns shall be achieved through the use of tabs only. Or, columns in Word or Word Perfect format. Do NOT, under any circumstances, use the space bar. MS Word is Preferred.
- * Most of all^ . PLEASE! No ASCII "ART"!!
- * There is no limits as to size, articles may be split into two if lengthy
- * Actual Artwork should be in GIF, PCX, JPG, TIF, BMP, WMF file formats
- * Artwork (pictures, graphs, charts, etc.) should be sent along with the article separately
- * Please use a single font in an article. TTF Times New Roman is preferred. (VERY Strong Hint)

If there are any questions please use either E-Mail or call.

Many grateful thanks in advance for your enthusiastic co-operation and input.

Ralph F. Mariano, Editor
rmariano@streport.com
STReport International Online Magazine

Classics & Gaming Section
Editor Dana P. Jacobson
dpj@streport.com

> From the Atari Editor's Desk
"*****"

"Saying it like it is!"

Another week draws to a close and more of the summer remnants are fading away... Closed the pool last weekend, the weather has been nice - delightfully cooler, kids are back to school, and the like. Still, I've been getting in some golf and the barbecue is still in full use. It's hard to believe we've been in the "new" house for just over a year, one season each so far. It's been wonderful so far.

Not much Atari news this week, but I did spot the Atari Times Awards "ballot" on the Usenet. I've included it here for you to check out. While there are no real awards, take a few minutes to read it, fill it out and send in. People still continuing to support the Atari community should be recognized. They get little return for their endeavors these days, so a little recognition can serve to go a long way. Trust me, it means a lot to be appreciated for what you do for others.

Until next time...

1998 Atari Times Awards
From: "Colin Polonowski" <polonowski@zetnet.co.uk>

1998 Atari Times Awards

What are they?

They are our attempt at repaying those people out there who still believe the Atari platform is a viable alternative to the PC dominated computer world.

Those people who spend time and money pushing the Atari platform to its limits and supporting it in any way they can...

Is this the first time?

No! The Atari Times Awards were launched in 1997 and proved to be surprisingly successful. This year we want to surpass this and make them extremely successful!!!

What categories are there?

Best Programmer
Best Commercial Release
Best Shareware Release
Best PD/Freeware Release
Best Game
Best Hardware Add-on
Best Company

Best Non-Profit Organisation
Best Disk Magazine
Best Paper Magazine
Best Web Page
Best Internet Service Provider
Special award for services to the Atari community

How do I vote?

Voting is easy, you have three options:

- 1) E-mail your nominations for each category to:
polonowski@zetnet.co.uk
- 2) Fill in the form provided on the Atari Times Homepage at:
<http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/polonowski/atimes/>
- 3) Write your nominations on a piece of paper and send them to:
AT Awards 98, c/o Colin Polonowski, The Croft, Hope Rd, Nibley,
Nr Yate, Bristol, BS37 5JH, ENGLAND

That's all there is to it!

So, go on and show your support for the Atari platform by voting in the 1998 Atari Times Awards and show those Atari supporters out there that you have noticed the effort they are putting in!

Cheers,

- * Colin Polonowski, polonowski@zetnet.co.uk
- * The Zone - <http://www.users.zetnet.co.uk/polonowski/>
- * Editor - Atari Times(UK), Programmer - Croft Soft Software

Announcing Atari Serial Mouse Interface
From: Mario Becroft <mb@tos.pl.net>

28/8/1998 ANNOUNCING THE ATARI SERIAL MOUSE INTERFACE ** REVISED **

- * Allows any serial mouse (as used on IBM compatibles) to be connected to Atari ST(E), TT, Falcon or compatible computers.
- * Support for serial mouse, track-ball, touch-pad or any other Microsoft or Mouse Systems compatible serial pointing device.
- * Easy installation: just plug in and go.
- * Unlike other "solutions", the interface doesn't tie up your serial port, or require special software drivers.
- * Third button or wheel can act as a double click of the left button, or on software/hardware that supports it, as a real middle button.

The Atari Serial Mouse Interface is the best solution for replacing a worn-out Atari mouse, or ensuring that you will never have trouble obtaining a mouse in the future. Serial mice are used on IBM compatible computers, and are readily available from any computer dealer.

The interface is also handy for those who are tired of the slow and clumsy Atari mouse. With the wide range of serial mice, trackballs and touch-pads available, you will have no trouble finding a pointing device to suit your taste and budget.

Plus, if like many users you find double clicking tedious, simply obtain a serial mouse with middle button or wheel. Then a simple press on the

middle button or wheel acts like a double click - no more double clicking hassles. Or if you use UNIX or other software that uses a middle button for other purposes, the interface can be configured for that, too.

Installation is simple. The interface is a small unit measuring only 4x5x1 cm, with a serial mouse plug at one end, and a cable that plugs into your Atari mouse port at the other end. To install the unit, simply plug it in - no other setup is required. And being so small, it sits comfortably on your desk without taking up too much space.

ORDERING:

Units are available directly from me:

- * \$50 New Zealand dollars, \$25 US dollars or 16 UK pounds each
- * \$60 New Zealand dollars, \$30 US dollars or 20 UK pounds each including 3-button serial mouse.

Controlling price is in New Zealand dollars, prices are subject to change based on fluctuating exchange rates and other factors.

User groups or clubs, contact me for information on quantity discounts. Dealership enquiries welcome.

Postage to most locations in the world for a few units will be \$5 US dollars or 4 UK pounds, and delivery will take a week or two. Contact me for an exact figure.

The interface will be available locally in the UK very soon.

Enquiries: Email: mb@tos.pl.net

Post:

Mario Becroft
PO Box 332
Kumeu
Auckland 1250
NEW ZEALAND

If ordering from outside New Zealand, you can pay by a BANK CHEQUE IN NEW ZEALAND DOLLARS (NOT PERSONAL CHEQUE). Alternatively, you can send US or UK currency by post, but it is YOUR RISK if it gets lost in the post. P.S. Please distribute this announcement to any relevant Atari forums as you see fit.

And watch this space for some more Atari hardware announcements soon.

>In This Week's Gaming Section - 'Project X'!! Psygnosis Sold?
"Quake 2 Mission Pack"!!
And much more!

>Industry News STR Game Console NewsFile - The Latest Gaming News!
"

Project X - Revolution in the Making

Sep. 14, 1998 (INSIDE MULTIMEDIA, No. 176 via COMTEX) -- The ECTS show was an opportunity for a face-to-face with Richard Miller, chairman and CEO of VM Labs. Not only is Richard an avid reader of Inside Multimedia, he also heads of one of the most exciting multimedia projects in the world: Project X.

In essence Project X is a chip, a very powerful chip, which Richard and his team have designed and Motorola have produced. It is a media processor, easily the most powerful in the world, which replaces about five conventional chips. Motorola have won the exclusive license to manufacture and sell it throughout the world. Its ramifications will send shock waves through the entire industry.

To understand the implications of Project X you have to consider the role of the TV in the digital future. It has two roles: video games and digital TV entertainment. The latter is based on MPEG-2 data streams embracing DVB, DVD, HDTV, digital cable - at present passive, linear mediums. The VM Labs chipset replaces the MPEG-2 decoder and turns a passive MPEG-2 product into an interactive multimedia station.

To say that this is bad news for C-Cube is an understatement. It might also be bad news for Sony. The reason is that Project X gives the other manufacturers the opportunity to add games functionality to DVD boxes. You have to understand that everyone hates Sony. They are jealous of the success of PlayStation (that now accounts for a third of Sony's revenues). The PlayStation success has legitimised gaming for the consumer electronics companies and they want a slice of the action.

Motorola, Thomson and Toshiba see the opportunity to create DVD players that also play games. The next wave of consumer electronics products will have gaming built in. It gives them the chance to customize the look and feel of their DVD players with a software platform they can customise.

What will be the cost to manufacturers to incorporate Project X technology into their hardware? VM Labs say there is minimal incremental cost because this chip replaces the 'hard wired' audio and video decoder ICs and often many other additional ICs that are required in a typical digital video product. It incorporates all the functions necessary for video and audio decode, including subpicture, closed captioning, navigation, user interface and so forth, into a single, high performance media processor.

We had a sneak preview of the DVD capability and were totally impressed. Remember this is a 1500 mip processor, that means it can execute 1.5 billion instructions per second. It hardly blinks when decoding MPEG-2, including Dolby Digital, DTS and MPEG audio.

When it comes to games the results are truly awe-inspiring. Forget those crude pixellated images based on polygons. Richard demonstrated a computer-generated landscape, three spheres drifting through the sky in a graceful, random ballet above a rippling blue lake. One sphere appears chromed; it reflects the lake, and the lake reflects it. This is the kind of demo that animation studios used to create 15 years ago, using a chain of SGI workstations. The difference is that the VM Labs

board was doing it in real time using ray tracing, not polygons - all from a program less than 2 Kb in size. We also watched an amazing demo of a ballet dancer pirouetting on the screen. She passed the 'bottom test': she had buttocks which Lara Croft would die for.

Forgive our excitement but we think this is revolutionary. Richard Miller and his team have produced 'The Anything Machine'. By producing a media processor that responds to software commands he has destroyed our existing mental boundaries between set-top boxes, DVD Video and games consoles. He has blurred the dividing line between TV, DVD and games. Think what this does for education - the ability to mix and match high definition video and audio with incredibly detailed 3D ray-traced graphics. The mind boggles.

Richard Miller knows that he cannot win in a straight fight with Sony, Nintendo and Sega. He has chosen the Trojan Horse approach, sneaking in through the back door of the DVD player. The first boxes from Motorola, Toshiba and Thomson should appear next spring at around Pounds 250.

The first application was announced by Motorola at IBC on Sunday. Code-named Blackbird it is a flexible consumer electronics platform that can be customized using network interface modules (NIMs) to support terrestrial, cable, satellite or digital subscriber line connections. The system will run the latest release of Microware's David real-time operating system which supports Java. It uses Project X's microkernel, along with its own graphics APIs and development tools, to run Project X-enabled games or other interactive applications.

Richard Miller is a Brit who cut his teeth designing the Sinclair Spectrum and Jaguar. He escaped to America because noone in Britain would back him (a familiar story). In Silicon Valley he has surrounded himself with some of the world's smartest guys, like the fabled Jeff Minter of Atari fame. He has pulled off something that has evaded Philips and Chromatic Research - a massively powerful multimedia processor that has captured the hearts and pocketbooks of Motorola, Toshiba and Thomson.

The whole PC versus TV debate is now sterile. Hollywood movies are increasingly relying on computer-generated imagery. Games are increasingly becoming lifelike and can now incorporate MPEG-2 imagery. The worlds of movie so-called reality and games virtuality are about to fuse together.

Project X unites DVD and powerful ray-traced 3D graphics. It is interactive DVD. Thus DVD-i has arrived and nobody spotted it. But is also much more. Project X leaps the boundaries to digital television and games. It truly changes the world as we know it.

The Battle to Save Mankind Continues With The Release of id Software's Quake II Mission Pack: Ground Zero

There will be no rest for the weary and nowhere to hide when the wicked army of Strogg unleash the greatest threat ever to mankind. Players must once again struggle to avoid annihilation with id Software's(TM) new QUAKE II Mission Pack: Ground Zero(TM). Developed by Rogue Entertainment and distributed by Activision, Inc., QUAKE II Mission Pack: Ground Zero will be available in stores throughout North America

the week of September 14, for the suggested retail price of \$29.95.

Featuring 15 thrilling single-player environments and 14 new deathmatch levels, QUAKE II Mission Pack: Ground Zero offers more new, never before seen levels than any other Mission Pack released by id Software. Seven of the new deathmatch levels have been specialized for one-on-one combat while the remaining new levels focus on deathmatch battles for up to eight players. With new deathmatch powerups such as the Vengeance Sphere, Doppelganger and Hunter Sphere, players will be challenged to demolish their enemies with a new ferocity.

In Ground Zero, as players battle on to save their comrades trapped by the Gravity Well, the new menace to mankind, each must confront ominous foes such as the Stalker, Daedalus, Medic Commander, Carrier and the vicious Black Widow. Armed with the newest weapons of destruction such as the ETF (Explosive-Tipped Flechette) Rifle, the Proximity Mine Launcher and the Plasma Beam, gamers will launch ruthless QUAKE II battles.

''With Ground Zero, id offers a new opportunity for gamers to devastate and annihilate their opponents with an added bonus,'' said CEO of id Software Todd Hollenshead. ''Not only does this Mission Pack provide all new deathmatch levels and environments, but it also provides updates to the original QUAKE II, which allow players to auto download skins or mods and also utilize the viewable weapon mode on all QUAKE II games. Gamers will enjoy combating their foes in this new action packed surge of ruthless carnage.''

''id and Rogue pushed the limits of the QUAKE engine with the hugely successful QUAKE Mission Pack No. 2: Dissolution of Eternity. Ground Zero reunites id and Rogue in what is destined to become one of the most awesome game add-ons ever,'' states Mitch Lasky, senior vice president, Activision Studios. ''Killer levels and sinister monsters are what we've come to expect from Rogue, and this mission pack delivers beyond expectations.''

id -- Freud's primal part of the human psyche and one of the hottest game shops on Earth -- has been rocking the gaming world from Mesquite, Texas since 1991. As a renown leader in the industry, id Software has forged frenetic titles such as Wolfenstein 3-D, DOOM, DOOM II, QUAKE, and QUAKE II. With intense graphics and mind-blowing adventure, id's games continually break retail and shareware sales records. id's advanced QUAKE II engine is leading the next revolution in 3-D interactive games with both single and multiplayer technology. And, in keeping with tradition, id Software amplifies the world of adrenaline pumping 3-D gaming with the development of their latest action title, QUAKE III Arena. Check out more about id Software at <http://www.idsoftware.com>.

Electronic Arts Ships Jane's Israeli Air Force

Built in Israel by IAF Fighter Pilots, Jane's Israeli Air Force is the First Product to Simulate an Entire Air Force

SAN MATEO, Calif.--Sept. 14, 1998--Electronic Arts(TM), the world's largest interactive entertainment software company, today announced it has shipped Jane's Israeli Air Force (IAF).

Developed for Electronic Arts (EA) by Israeli fighter pilots, Jane's IAF is the first product to simulate an entire air force rather than one plane or one era.

Jane's IAF is published under Electronic Arts' Jane's(R) Combat Simulations brand, which delivers authenticity and realism to the simulation experience. Jane's is a leading provider of defense-related information to the world's militaries, governments and businesses.

''Today, the Israeli Air Force is recognized as the world's best-trained and best-equipped air force, and is highly respected for its achievements,'' says Executive in Charge of Production Paul Grace. ''We established a great working relationship with the Israeli Air Force and that has allowed us to bring an unprecedented product to market.''

Developed by Pixel Multimedia, a Tel Aviv, Israel-based development company founded by active duty Israeli Air Force pilots, Jane's IAF features the most advanced Israeli aircraft and utilizes a breakthrough terrain engine. The engine delivers stunning, photo-realistic terrain mirroring real-life textures. Development involved capturing stereoscopic satellite data, in some places exceeding one meter per pixel resolution with true elevation and coloring.

Jane's IAF offers a full complement of training missions and beginner gaming modes to get novices in the air quickly and easily. It also features online play on Jane's CombatNet at <http://www.janescombat.net>. Similar to the tactics used by Israeli pilots, players must dogfight through Middle Eastern canyons at extremely low altitudes on full afterburner.

The game features seven jets from the Israeli Air Force including the F-4, the jet that has flown more combat missions than any other jet worldwide; the F-4 2000, the 1990s version of the F-4 equipped with highly advanced systems and weaponry; the F-15i, the world's best air-superiority fighter aircraft; the F-16, a sophisticated multi-purpose fighter; the Lavi, Israel's next generation fighter; the Kfir, an Israeli dual-role single-seater, for both air and air-to-ground combat; and the Mirage III, the single-engine French-built fighter with more victories than any other Israeli Air Force aircraft.

Jane's IAF is available now with an expected retail price of \$50.00. It can be purchased online at the EA Store at <http://www.store.ea.com> or direct by calling 1-800/245-4525. More information on Jane's IAF can be found on the Internet at the Jane's Combat Simulations Web Site located at <http://www.janes.ea.com>.

System Requirements: Windows(R) 95/Windows(R) 98, 233MHz Pentium with MMX(TM) technology, 32MB RAM, 4MB video memory, DirectX(TM) compatible sound card, 8x CDRom drive. DirectX(TM) 5 (or 6), Indeo(R) video drivers (available on CD). Minimum install: 251MB hard disc space. Full install: 635MB hard disc space.

Recommended: Windows 95/Windows 98, 266MHZ or faster Pentium with MMX technology, 64MB RAM, 3-D accelerator, DirectX compatible sound card, 12x or faster CDRom drive, 635MB hard disc space, 4-button joystick, DirectX 5 (or 6), Indeo video drivers. Internet connection (for multiplayer games) 33.6 Kbps modem Internet connection with TCP/IP-compatible protocol and web browser.

Required for Multi-Player: Internet connection (for multiplayer games), 28.8 Kbps modem Internet connection with TCP/IP-compatible protocol and web browser. Network (2-8 Players) IPX compliant network and TCP/IP and one CD per player.

Infogrames Assaults Market With Massive Fall Lineup

Top 10 Publisher Readies to Translate Summer Success Into Fall Hits

SAN JOSE, Calif.--Sept. 15, 1998--Buoyed by the success of this summer's hit ''Mission: Impossible,'' Infogrames Entertainment Inc. announced its fourth quarter lineup, further cementing its stake in the interactive entertainment industry.

The fall showcase includes 11 titles spanning three platforms, led most notably by the November kick off of the highly-anticipated Looney Tunes brand games.

Infogrames will rollout the new Looney Tunes line with two color Gameboy titles, ''Carrot Crazy,'' based on Bugs Bunny and Lola Bunny, and ''Touble'' starring Sylvester. The titles represent the first of an entire product line devoted to the lovable Warner Bros. characters.

Additional titles will be released throughout 1999 for both the Nintendo 64 and Sony PlayStation. ''V-Rally,'' last year's success on the PlayStation, will now be packed into a smaller punch for the Gameboy this fall.

''We've made a huge commitment on our second-half offering, from development to distribution,'' said Mike Markey, vice president, sales and marketing, Infogrames Entertainment. ''The success we've achieved with 'Mission: Impossible,' combined with our Q4 lineup, further positions us as a formidable player in the worldwide videogame market.''

PC Addictions

Infogrames' PC offerings start with the early September launch of ''Hexplore,'' published under the I-Motion label. The title is an RPG transporting players to the year A.D. 1000 in a search for the fabled Garden of Eden.

Catapulting players from the middle ages to the distant future, ''Independence War'' enlists gamers as futuristic dreadnought pilots in the year 2268. Also available in early September, the sci-fi simulation, published under the Ocean brand, captures players' imaginations with an all-out interstellar battle, all the while zooming past the likes of Jupiter at warp speed.

''F22 Total Air War,'' slated for release this fall, puts players in the cockpit of the ultra-combat flight simulation. The latest in the renowned franchise of developer DID's ''F22'' titles, players engage not only in aerial combat, but also have the chance to plan strategy from the point of view of an AWACS commander. ''F22 Total Air War'' will be available in October under the Ocean brand of titles.

Console Cravings

For its console lineup, Infogrames has five titles scheduled for release through the fall: ``GT 64 Championship Edition`` and ``Starshot`` for the N64; and ``Asterix``, ``Smurfs`` and ``Lucky Luke`` for the PlayStation.

``GT 64,`` developed by Imagineer, takes to the streets in a series of short and long track races, which include officially licensed GT cars from Honda, Toyota and Nissan. The simulation racer will be available by mid-September under the Ocean brand.

``Starshot,`` formerly known as ``Space Circus,`` is available in December under the Ocean brand. The title introduces the lovable roving juggler Starshot and his whimsical band of interstellar circus performers. The ``toon-fiction`` takes players on a fantastical exploration of galactic worlds and comical adventures.

For the PlayStation, Infogrames will present three titles geared specifically toward the younger audience. ``Lucky Luke,`` a comical, western-themed action/adventure game will debut first, followed soon after by ``Asterix`` and ``Smurfs.``

Eidos Acquires Gex Game Developer

September 15, (Tech Web - CMP via COMTEX) -- Eidos Interactive, publisher of Tomb Raider, announced last week it has acquired game developer and publisher Crystal Dynamics for \$47.5 million.

Eidos [EDISY] is part of London-based Eidos plc. The company develops and publishes entertainment titles for the PC, Sony PlayStation, and Nintendo 64.

Crystal Dynamics, publisher of game franchises Gex and Legacy of Kain, will continue developing its own software brands with operations remaining unchanged, according to a company statement.

Their product-release schedule will also stay the same. The Unholy War and Akuji the Heartless will be released before the holiday season. Legacy of Kain: Soul Reaver and Gex 3 will ship in the first quarter of 1999.

Scott Steinberg, Crystal's vice president of marketing, described the deal as a win-win situation for all involved. "Eidos was by far our No. 1 choice. ...I think they're the most exciting up-and-coming company in the industry right now."

Crystal, which didn't expect to weather the shift to next-generation consoles, has spent the past year preparing itself for an acquisition by keeping an eye on overhead and maintaining a streamlined staff, Steinberg said. Because of this, few layoffs are expected -- though changes will be made over the next month and a half. "The company is tailor-made to be absorbed by another and not have to go through the trauma that interrupts the development process," Steinberg said.

According to Steinberg, the two companies share similar marketing and development philosophies, which will ease the integration process.

"[Eidos] markets aggressively, they promote in the retail channel aggressively and understand the hit-driven [nature] of this business. If you can't really get behind your hits and exploit your hits, then you'll never get ahead in this business. They understand this," Steinberg said.

Psygnosis Denies Takeover Rumors

Sep. 14, 1998 (MULTIMEDIA WIRE, Vol. 5, No. 177 via COMTEX) - Psygnosis late yesterday asserted itself as a wholly-owned subsidiary of PlayStation maker Sony Computer Entertainment America, denying widely reported rumors that it will be acquired by Eidos.

In addition, Psygnosis confirms that it laid off 40 staffers from its San Francisco development studio as it killed two projects. Both titles were at least two years from being published.

The move appears to be cost-cutting and, in the grand scheme of things, the layoffs are not a huge chunk out of Psygnosis' operations. Remaining are more than 800 staffers and about 50 projects, representing internally developed titles and managed publishing projects from outside developers.

ONLINE WEEKLY STReport OnLine

The wires are a hummin'!

PEOPLE... ARE TALKING

Compiled by Joe Mirando
jmirando@streport.com

Well friends and neighbors, this is a very rare occasion! It seems that I don't have much to say this week. Can you believe it? There's the Clinton thing that's still being hashed out around the world, but I'm tired of it already. There's the fact that CompuServe will be discontinuing ASCII access in The Computer Club Forum starting this Sunday (the 20th), but I've been assured that there is no amount of bluster or venom that will change that situation. There is the fact that the Atari userbase is getting smaller and smaller, but that's old news, isn't it?

Heck, I remember giving a talk at an Atari show (it seems like only yesterday) about the need for timely news in the computer world, and how the new field of "digital journalism" offered access to current news and happenings in a way never imagined before. "Sometimes the news is so fresh it's still bleeding", I told the audience. Although it got some chuckles because of ongoing flame-wars with various factions of the "Thought Police", most people understood the value of news-on-demand and what it might be able to do for them.

It kind of reminds me of a scene from one of the Star Trek movies... STAR TREK IV: THE VOYAGE HOME, I think it was. Our favorite galaxy-saving crew was standing on the earth of the 1980's and came upon

a newspaper stand. They stood there and waited for the headlines to change and when they didn't, they realized that it was a printed news paper. "My God", said one of them, "it's a wonder we ever got out of the 20th century"!

That may sound a bit dramatic, but stop and think a moment about the state of computing and the leaps it has made in just the last twenty five years. In 1973, computers were still at-least-desk-sized monstrosities that had to be pampered and protected. It was inconceivable that an individual could own and use one, because of the expense and technical expertise required. Then came the Altos and the Apple. They put computing power into the hands of the individual. True, you had to build it yourself from the parts provided, but it was a start. With the introduction of the Apple II, along with a few others, all you really had to do was to shell out the money and you could compute! In '79 I was attending college and got hooked on computers, even though I knew right from the start that I'd never be a programmer. Class assignments that took me two or three flow chart pages and several hours to complete were done by others in half an hour and took up less than a page. Sure, my programs worked, but they were never as efficient or elegant as others. So I settled on enjoying the programming work of others. The next semester, the college popped for modems for our Apple II's. We connected up to a local University's mainframe and stored our classwork there. The modems were state-of-the-art Hayes models with smoked acrylic cases and rainbow ribbon cables connecting them to the computers. They also transmitted data at a rip-roaring 300 baud. Sure, there were people who could type faster than that (if you figure in error checking and system lag), but I couldn't. And I guess that no one had thought of off-line reading and composition for personal computers yet, but everything was done online. There was no such thing as uploading a picture file (Why would there be? The monitors could only display ASCII anyway), so everything was text.

When I finish typing, cutting, and pasting this column, I'll be compressing it in ZIP format and uploading it to another editor at 56K. Yes, yes, I know... it's really only 52,000 baud, but we'll call it 56,000 just for the heck of it. That's somewhere on the order of 186 times the speed of that old Hayes modem. If someone had told me all those years ago that I'd be telecommunicating at that speed, I would have told them to go back to watching Star Trek, and called them a fool as they walked away. At that time, I hadn't envisioned the ability to upload data files or do things off-line. Many others didn't either, and we had to play catch-up once things got going. Now, everyone wants the 'eye candy'. Lots of graphics and pretty colors to amuse you while you learn whatever it is that you're trying to learn. And that's not necessarily a bad thing. The bad part is when the pretty colors, moving pictures, and bold-faced text become more important than the content and, because of the large file sizes, actually keep you from finding what it is that you're looking for. Of course, just because the FCC has limited communications over telephone lines to 56K, that doesn't mean that you'll never be able to go faster than that. Cable modems are becoming more common (of course you've got to have cable for that), and satellite modems may soon appear that will allow you to receive data from a satellite dish and send data through your phone lines (but what you send is normally much less than the data transmitted back to you). And I'm sure that the near future will see more cool things that most of us have never envisioned.

So will these advances put an end to the "World Wide Wait"? In the long run, I doubt it. Imagine three dimensional real-time images, spoken

commands and responses, and virtual reality elements on the web, and you can also imagine the huge amounts of overhead that will be needed in both computing power and communications ability. It seems that no matter how fast we can go, there will always be one bottleneck or another to remind us that we are not omnipotent. And perhaps that's as it should be.

Now let's get on with the news, hints, and tips...

From the comp.sys.atari.st NewsGroup
=====

Kenneth Medin asks about using his TT to a monitor:

"Is it possible to use a TT with a svga monitor in monochrome mode? This would mean TT high i suppose. I have a strong feeling this does not work, but a friend says the opposite.

He will come over to my place tomorrow with his TT to try this out. Is there any danger involved when connecting a modern pc monitor to a TT?"

Tim Conrardy tells Kenneth:

"There is no danger hooking up a svga monitor to a TT...that is what I use. It is a standard 15 pin connector. As far as getting TT Hi res on it.. I think you need a graphics card with that."

Roger Cain adds:

"Hummm he's 'half' right, I suppose. You can run ST-High Res. from a TT on an SVGA but you CANNOT run TT-High Res. So 'monochrome' - yes: TT High -no.

Danger? I don't think so. There is a special mono-detect line on the monitors which will support TT-High. Without this the TT will not allow you to select the mode."

Last week we heard someone ask about implementing JAVA for CAB, and the answer seemed to be "who needs it?" Ken Springer posted:

"It was just recently pointed out to me that without JAVA, you cannot have secure websites for doing business on the web. Apparently, HTML does not support the encryption necessary to protect your credit card number, for instance, as it travels from you to the vendor when buying a product."

Steve Hammond tells Ken:

"I just recently got a nice US Robotics Modem from MicroWarehouse over their web page using SS (secure sockets), which I beleive is the currently accepted method for these types of transactions, with CAB 2.7 Demo and CAB.OVL 1.3011b with STiK. Order went thru without a hitch. Interesting enough when I tried the first time from work using NetScape 3.0 I kept getting an "Address Field" incorrect error from MW's server. Tried at home on the trusty ol' TT and did not have a problem <smile>."

Charles Silver tells Steve:

"CAB.OVL1.3011 doesn't support SSL. You don't need JAVA either for SSL. It's a separate encryption. MicroWarehouse doesn't use/need SSL browsers.

I do have a broker account that does. Whatever, it's nice to know that CAB/ CAB.OVL did work properly for you to send in your order. That's a big plus. Hope Atari dealers would implement the same."

"Jim at Studio 9" adds his thoughts:

"I think the JAVA/CAB issue is an interesting one for TOS. If it is unlikely that anything less than the new clones could support JAVA and if it is unlikely that anyone is prepared to port it then well ... we've got to do without it!

I am a passionate Atari user but I accept that my beloved STe is 15 year old technology. Face facts our platform will increasingly come a cropper of new software technologies that demand fast processors and large memories. But this is OK!! It's horses for courses as I've said before. An Atari remains an extremely productive tool but if you want to render broadcast quality video, master 32 tracks of digital audio, or even just fiddle with JAVA then think again. I assure you you aint missing much!

What we can do ... a plug-in for CAB that at least recognises all the new formats and (1) prevents a system crash and (2) tells you what you might have had ie-where a shockwave movie should appear CAB could say "Non-TOS file embedded here!" or something, a 160x120 vivo movie would generate a 160x120 pixel message on screen saying "Movie format - not supported by TOS" etc. We can also bully people into adhering to a multi-bandwidth/multi-platform design model, after all most computers out there in cyberspace are 486s and 680x0 MACs anyway.

Javascript might be a more viable option - Gemscript? - Particularly if it 'emulated' Javascript and was in non-bloatware optimised assembler or something ?"

K. Hampf asks:

"Is Cab supposed to work with Yahoo as of yet? I sure can't get it working with Cab 2.7/OVL 3.011b/STiNG. And I have tried different time and GMT settings."

John Logan tells K.:

"I normally have no difficulty with "commercial" CAB (version 2 perhaps) and STiK. After reading your message, I tried Yahoo using OVL 1.3011b and got a message I had not seen before viz Post Got Redirected. Clicking on Re-post seemed to get things going again."

James Aubrey asks:

"Are there any programmes out there to transfer data from palmtop PCs/Organizers to the ST. I am considering buying one, although I have access to a PC and can run ACSII files via disks, I would prefer to do it directly."

Nick Bales tells James:

"As far as palmtop PCs go, as long as they are DOS compatible and have a serial or parallel port then it's the same as with any PC: ghostlink, parcp, paralink, Zmodem...

There is a page somewhere that deals with connecting the Atari to a PalmPilot or to Psion S3. Do web search on that."

Derryck Croker tells James:

"Perhaps the best supported palmtop is the Psion Series 3X and Sienna range, there is a suite of utilities written by Keith Baines that will do practically all you want including searching database files and converting from Psion's WRD format Word files to ASCII. There's an OPL editor too. It's not on the web AFAIK but you can get it from the FaST Club."

Jim Logan tells us that he...

"... purchased this CD ROM recently. It contains a lot of stuff but it recommends that folders are copied to hard disk before running the programs. Problem is, all the files are write protected so that once you have copied a folder to your hard disk, you will have to reset the read/write status on every file if you want to delete the folder. The Calamus 96 demo, for instance, has 147 files in 13 folders. That's a fairly boring task for one demo alone.

Better surely to have set them all to read-and-write (perhaps not as safe but overall better)."

Claes Holmerup tells Jim:

"I believe the problem is that since the files are on CD-ROM, the computer sees them as write-protected (since you can't write to a CD-ROM) and keeps that status when you copy them to your harddisk. I'm not sure if there's anything to do about it, but it would have been nice... A task for Kobold maybe?"

Michael Olin adds something that I was thinking myself:

"Seems to me I recall that ExtenDOS had this as an option, that you could configure it to NOT set the write-protect bit on each file when it was copied to the harddrive... Of course, that would mean that NO file copied from a CD would ever be auto-write protected but then that pretty safe considering the CD will still always contain the original."

Niall Moran asks:

"Is cab 2.7 available in english yet, apart from the demo. Has System Solutions got round to selling it over here."

CJohns tells Niall:

"[I] Phoned them yesterday - it's coming, but not yet...."

Paul Nurminen asks about an Alert Box in CAB:

"A strange (to me anyway) dialog box has been popping up in CAB lately that I've never seen before.

BTW: I'm using CAB 2.5 with the Beta OVL 1.3011 (under MagiC 5.11).

At seemingly random moments while clicking my way around various web pages, I get the following dialog box:

"Post got redirected!"

"Get this"

"Re-post"

"Cancel"

(With "Get this" the default selection)

Hitting RETURN or clicking continues with whatever CAB was doing, but the box often reappears shortly after.

What's going on here? I'm not posting anything (ie. not trying to send any e-mail), just browsing. At first I thought perhaps the site I was on had moved some of it's pages elsewhere, but after experimenting a bit, this doesn't seem to be the case.

Is this something attributable to the beta OVL? If so, what purpose does it serve? More importantly, how do I make it stop?"

Chris Gray tells Paul:

"I don't use CAB 2.5 (hey, I *will* order it sometime!), but this sounds very like the behaviour which started puzzling lynx users a year or so ago: <URL:http://www.crl.com/~subir/lynx/why.html>.

The site in question is doing something questionable in HTTP terms, and lynx/CAB is asking if you really want to go along with this. Other, lesser (but strangely popular) browsers don't notice that something odd is happening, so the badly programmed script continues to proliferate."

Peter Rottengatter, the author of STinG, adds his two hundredths of a dollar's worth:

"If you're a newbie, then you shouldn't use beta versions. Beta versions are such because the author knows they might contain bugs the effects of which are very hard to separate from the effects of a newbie's misconfiguration.

It's the Microsoft world that made everyone believe that betas are just as good as final software. Maybe it's because Windows never made it out of beta status ..."

A bit abrasive perhaps, but he does have a point. <grin>

Paul Nurminen asks:

"Is it possible for a PC (Win98) to read an Syquest EZ135 from an Atari (or the other way around)?

In the past, I've transfered files to and from PCs with floppies without problems. However, My roommate (Win98 PC) and I (Falcon) were attempting to swap some large audio files - too large for floppies, and very time consuming to send as e-mail attachments, and were unsuccessful.

We both have external SCSI EZ135 drives, but neither of us can read the other's format. His PC says the (Atari formatted with ICD) cart is UNFORMATTED, and when I try to use the cart formatted by Win98, I get error messages - as if there is no cart in the drive. I'm pretty sure the Win98 FAT32 filing systems is one of, if not THE problem, but my roommate doesn't know how to format the cart any other way.

I've seen mention of a utility here called st2dos, but have not tried it. Is this for floppies only?

Any suggestions or help, or am I trying to do the impossible?"

Terry Kelly tells Paul:

"It is possible if you use HD Driver on the ST. HD driver will read the PC formatted cart on your ST, although there may be a partition size limit depending on what version of TOS you are using."

Well friends, that's about it for this time around. Tune in again next week, same time, same station, and be ready to listen to what they are saying when...

PEOPLE ARE TALKING

EDITORIAL QUICKIES

Fun with Words

- * Foreplay: any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of obtaining sex.
- * Fortissimoe: the musical moment produced when someone serially slaps the faces of the first-violin section.
- * Tatty: a lecherous Mr. Potato Head.
- * Doltergeist: a spirit that decides to haunt someplace stupid, such as your septic tank.
- * Giraffiti: vandalism spray-painted very, very high, such as the famous "Surrender Dorothy" on the Beltway overpass.
- * Sarchasm: the gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the recipient who doesn't get it.
- * Contratemps: the resentment permanent workers feel toward the fill-in workers.
- * Coiterie: a very VERY close-knit group.
- * Whitetater: a political hot potato.
- * Impotence: eager anticipation by men awaiting their Viagra prescription.
- * Reintarnation: coming back to life as a hillbilly.
- * DIOS: the one true operating system.
- * Inoculate: to take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
- * Hipatitis: terminal coolness.
- * Writer's tramp: a woman who practices poetic licentiousness.
- * Taterfamilias: the head of the Potato Head family.
- * Guillozine: a magazine for executioners.
- * Adultery: cheating on your wife with a much younger woman who holds you in awe.
- * Emasculate: a tool for castration.
- * Burglesque: a poorly planned break-in. (See: Watergate)
- * Genitaliar: an image-enhancing object that can be carried in a man's front pocket.
- * Glibido: all talk and no action.

- * Eunouch: the pain of castration.
- * Hindkerchief: really expensive toilet paper; toilet paper at Buckingham palace.
- * Hozone: the area around 14th street.
- * Dopeler effect: the tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
- * Hindprint: indentation made by a couch potato.
- * Intaxication: euphoria at getting a refund from the IRS, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.

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